

REMARKS

Claims 20-38 are pending and under consideration. Claims 20-21, 23, 25, 28-29, 33 and 37 are amended herein. Claims 21-27, 29-32 and 37 are objected to.

Independent claim 1 recites detecting first and second reference points respectively representing first and second end points of the first side; scanning an image between the first and second reference points after detecting the first and second reference points. In contrast, Morita discloses determining the point at which the BLK2 signal is set to "0" to show that the manuscript was detected, and BLK2 is set to "1" to show that manuscript termination was detected. Morita, paras. 34 and 35. The resulting signals MSK1 and MSK2 are held until the scan of the following line is started. Thus, the signals BLK2 being 0/1 indicate an end-to-end range of a line, as opposed to the end points of a side.

Independent claim 28 recites determining whether a plurality of straight line images are detected more than a predetermined distance from the detected reference points. It is respectfully submitted that Morita does not disclose these features.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is requested.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

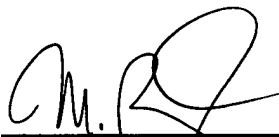
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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